

UNITED AS ONE,



When a senior citizen apartment complex was quarantined due to COVID-19 exposures, The Barry Eaton Health Department, Commission on Aging, Care-Well Services and Barry County United Way worked together to gain additional food items. The late night delivery enabled food boxes to be delivered early the next morning. Habitat for Humanity was able to assist one visually impaired individual with a radio reducing her loneliness.

Thanks to a contribution from Walmart, over 1,000 packages containing enough seed packets to plant a garden were distributed through the area school lunch programs, Blue Zones mailboxes at area libraries and Fresh Food Initiatives. The 4-H provided planting instructions and our area lumber companies provided coupons to purchase supplies to build garden containers.



Heart of West Michigan United Way shared their plentiful donation of toilet paper. Kings Appliance loaned us not only their truck but Mike, who drove to Grand Rapids to pick up the contribution. Toilet paper was then distributed through the Fresh Food Initiative.

WE CHANGE THE STORY OF MANY.

When Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation was unable to continue their team sporting events for kids, they purchased bats, balls and other outdoor activities to distribute with the school lunch programs. The kids were so excited to have something to do outside!

Green Gables Haven has had a significant increase in calls related to Domestic Violence. Being the safe voice on the other end of the phone provided strength and support to so many. They also had to get creative when a mom and her children needed to flee but, due to a compromised health concern couldn't enter a shelter situation; a local motel stepped in that was able to provide additional security.

COVID relief funds enabled our Barry County Emergency Management Director to purchase desperately needed Personal Protective Equipment for front line workers as it became available. Our Police, Fire and EMS agencies were able to be protected. HPS in Middleville assisted in sourcing these resources.

Sarah was living in her vehicle, homeless and suffering from both mental and substance abuse issues. Katie at Barry County Mental Health and Angie, the Housing Impact Specialist at United Way got creative and provided services to her wherever she parked. COVID has enabled changes in processes that better meet the needs of clients.

A \$127,000 State grant for eviction diversion has brought together Barry County Court System, Legal Services of South Central MI, Community Action, DHHS and the Barry County United Way to prevent evictions due to COVID-19 related financial hardships. To date, 40 households have been assisted with over \$93,026 enabling families to stay in their homes & landlords to pay their mortgages.